

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A machine-implemented method, comprising:
2 parsing a man page that is associated with a specified command line interface (CLI)
3 command;
4 based on the man page, automatically generating a description document that
5 describes the syntax of the specified CLI command; and
6 making the description document accessible to one or more remote systems to enable
7 the one or more remote systems to create remote invocation messages based
8 on the description document.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the description document is a Web Services
2 Description Language (WSDL) document.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 parsing the man page comprises determining, from the man page, a name of the
3 specified command; and
4 automatically generating the description document comprises generating a portion of
5 the description document that contains the name of the specified command as
6 indicated by the man page.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 parsing the man page comprises determining, from the man page, one or more options
3 that may be specified in association with the specified command; and

4 automatically generating the description document comprises generating, for each
 5 particular option of the one or more options, a separate portion of the
 6 description document that indicates the particular option.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 2 parsing the man page comprises determining, from the man page, a directory path to a
 3 program that implements the specified command; and
 4 automatically generating the description document comprises generating a portion of
 5 the description document that indicates the directory path.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 2 parsing the man page comprises determining, from the man page, one or more formal
 3 parameters that may be specified in association with the specified command;
 4 and
 5 automatically generating the description document comprises generating, for each
 6 particular formal parameter of the one or more formal parameters, a separate
 7 portion of the description document that indicates the particular formal
 8 parameter.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 2 receiving a remote invocation message that represents an invocation of the specified
 3 CLI command, wherein the remote invocation message was generated by at
 4 least one of the one or more remote systems based on the description
 5 document; and
 6 executing the CLI command indicated in the remote invocation message.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the remote invocation message is a Simple Object
2 Access Protocol (SOAP) message.

1 9. A machine-readable medium, comprising:
2 instructions for causing one or more processors to parse a man page that is associated
3 with a specified command line interface (CLI) command;
4 instructions for causing one or more processors to automatically generate, based on
5 the man page, a description document that describes the syntax of the
6 specified CLI command; and
7 instructions for causing one or more processors to make the description document
8 accessible to one or more remote systems to enable the one or more remote
9 systems to create remote invocation messages based on the description
10 document.

1 10. The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the description document is a
2 Web Services Description Language (WSDL) document.

1 11. The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein:
2 the instructions for causing one or more processors to parse the man page comprise
3 instructions for causing one or more processors to determine, from the man
4 page, a name of the specified command; and
5 the instructions for causing one or more processors to automatically generate the
6 description document comprise instructions for causing one or more
7 processors to generate a portion of the description document that contains the
8 name of the specified command as indicated by the man page.

1 12. The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein:

2 the instructions for causing one or more processors to parse the man page comprise

3 instructions for causing one or more processors to determine, from the man

4 page, one or more options that may be specified in association with the

5 specified command; and

6 the instructions for causing one or more processors to automatically generate the

7 description document comprise instructions for causing one or more

8 processors to generate, for each particular option of the one or more options, a

9 separate portion of the description document that indicates the particular

10 option.

1 13. The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein:

2 the instructions for causing one or more processors to parse the man page comprise

3 instructions for causing one or more processors to determine, from the man

4 page, a directory path to a program that implements the specified command;

5 and

6 the instructions for causing one or more processors to automatically generate the

7 description document comprise instructions for causing one or more

8 processors to generate a portion of the description document that indicates the

9 directory path.

1 14. The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein:

2 the instructions for causing one or more processors to parse the man page comprise

3 instructions for causing one or more processors to determine, from the man

4 page, one or more formal parameters that may be specified in association with
5 the specified command; and
6 the instructions for causing one or more processors to automatically generate the
7 description document comprise instructions for causing one or more
8 processors to generate, for each particular formal parameter of the one or
9 more formal parameters, a separate portion of the description document that
10 indicates the particular formal parameter.

1 15. The machine-readable medium of claim 9, further comprising:
2 instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a remote invocation
3 message that represents an invocation of the specified CLI command, wherein
4 the remote invocation message was generated by at least one of the one or
5 more remote systems based on the description document; and
6 instructions for causing one or more processors to execute the CLI command
7 indicated in the remote invocation message.

1 16. The machine-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the remote invocation message is
2 a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) message.

1 17. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a mechanism for parsing a man page that is associated with a specified command line
3 interface (CLI) command;
4 a mechanism for automatically generating, based on the man page, a description
5 document that describes the syntax of the specified CLI command; and

6 a mechanism for making the description document accessible to one or more remote
 7 systems to enable the one or more remote systems to create remote invocation
 8 messages based on the description document.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the description document is a Web Services
 2 Description Language (WSDL) document.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein:
 2 the mechanism for parsing the man page comprises a mechanism for determining,
 3 from the man page, a name of the specified command; and
 4 the mechanism for automatically generating the description document comprises a
 5 mechanism for generating a portion of the description document that contains
 6 the name of the specified command as indicated by the man page.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein:
 2 the mechanism for parsing the man page comprises a mechanism for determining,
 3 from the man page, one or more options that may be specified in association
 4 with the specified command; and
 5 the mechanism for automatically generating the description document comprises a
 6 mechanism for generating, for each particular option of the one or more
 7 options, a separate portion of the description document that indicates the
 8 particular option.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein:
 2 the mechanism for parsing the man page comprises a mechanism for determining,
 3 from the man page, a directory path to a program that implements the
 4 specified command; and

5 the mechanism for automatically generating the description document comprises a
6 mechanism for generating a portion of the description document that indicates
7 the directory path.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein:

2 the mechanism for parsing the man page comprises a mechanism for determining,
3 from the man page, one or more formal parameters that may be specified in
4 association with the specified command; and

5 the mechanism for automatically generating the description document comprises a
6 mechanism for generating, for each particular formal parameter of the one or
7 more formal parameters, a separate portion of the description document that
8 indicates the particular formal parameter.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:

2 a mechanism for receiving a remote invocation message that represents an invocation
3 of the specified CLI command, wherein the remote invocation message was
4 generated by at least one of the one or more remote systems based on the
5 description document; and

6 a mechanism for executing the CLI command indicated in the remote invocation
7 message.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the remote invocation message is a Simple Object
2 Access Protocol (SOAP) message.